

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An endoscope comprising:
 - a shaft having a diameter, extending along a longitudinal axis, having a distal end receivable in a hollow organ and a proximal end and defining a hollow channel therethrough, the shaft including a steering mechanism for moving the distal end of the shaft from a first position to a second position;
 - a first lens fixedly attached adjacent to the distal end of the shaft for receiving a first image in a first direction, the first direction generally being forward and parallel to the longitudinal axis of the shaft and the first image generally being a circumferential view of the hollow organ;
 - a catheter receivable in the hollow channel of the shaft for extension and retraction therethrough, the catheter including a distal tip, a proximal section and a bending section therebetween that retroflexes the distal tip from a first position to a second position upon extension of the distal tip of the catheter from the hollow channel; and
 - a second lens adjacent the distal end of the catheter and being receivable in the hollow channel of the shaft, the second lens ~~movable in a second direction with respect to the first lens upon emerging from the hollow channel of the shaft and extending beyond the first lens so as to receive~~ receiving a second image in ~~a the~~ second direction, ~~the second direction being at a generally 180 degree angle to the first direction with the catheter in the second position, the second direction being generally~~ and parallel to the longitudinal axis of the shaft and the second image providing a generally circumferential view of the hollow organ;wherein:
 - ~~the first image defining a forward image of the hollow organ and the second image defining a and second images define overlapping forward and rear image images of the same hollow organ, the second image being dependent on the first image;~~
 - the second direction is dependent on the first direction;
 - the diameter of the shaft is greater than the distance between the distal tip of the catheter and the proximal section of the catheter with the catheter in the second position; and

the shaft is insertable into the hollow body organ under image guidance of the first image and the steering mechanism of the shaft.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 1, wherein the first and second lenses receive the first and second images simultaneously.

4-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 1, further comprising an actuator operatively connected to the catheter for moving the catheter independent of the shaft.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 1, wherein the second lens is operatively connected to an image processor.

13. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 1, further comprising a display screen for displaying the first and second images.

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Currently Amended) The endoscope of claim 1, ~~wherein the catheter includes a distal tip and~~ wherein the endoscope further comprises one or more illumination bulbs disposed on the distal tip of the catheter for illuminating an area adjacent to the second lens.

16. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 15, wherein the one or more illumination bulbs are operatively connected to a power source.

Claims 17-42 (Cancelled)

43. (Currently Amended) The endoscope of claim 10 ~~wherein the catheter includes a distal tip and wherein the actuator includes first and second wires operatively connected to the distal tip of the catheter, wherein tension on the first and second wires controls movement of the distal tip of the catheter..~~

44. (Currently Amended) The endoscope of claim 10 ~~wherein the actuator for the catheter includes a bending structure disposed at the a distal tip end of the catheter; and wherein the bending structure urges the distal tip of the catheter toward the in a second position direction upon exit from the hollow channel of the shaft.~~

45-46. (Cancelled)

47. (Currently Amended) An endoscope system for examination of a hollow body component, comprising:

an endoscope having a diameter, an outer periphery, a steering mechanism and a distal end fixedly housing a first image lens for receiving a first image in a first direction, the endoscope defining a hollow channel therethrough, the first direction being generally forward of and parallel to the longitudinal axis of the distal end of the endoscope and the first image being generally a circumferential view of the hollow body component;

a catheter being reversibly received within the channel of the endoscope and having proximal and distal ends interconnected by a bending section therebetween, the bending section retroflexes the distal end from a first position to a second position upon extension of the distal end of the catheter from the hollow channel; and

a rear view module adjacent the distal end of the catheter and including a second image lens, at least of portion of the rear view module movable receiving a second image in a second direction between first and second directions, the second direction being at an angle of generally 180 degrees to the first direction with the distal end of the catheter in the second

position, while rear view module extends distally from the distal end of the endoscope and the
second image depicting a generally circumferential view of the hollow body component;
wherein:

the first and second images define a ~~representing a common~~ field of view within the hollow
body component;

the second direction is dependent on the first direction;

the diameter of the endoscope is greater than the distance between the distal end of the
catheter and the proximal section of the catheter with the catheter in the second position; and

the endoscope is insertable into the hollow body component under the image guidance of the
first image and the steering mechanism .

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Currently Amended) The endoscope system of claim 47 further comprising an actuator for
controlling movement of the distal end of the catheter ~~rear view module~~ between the first and
second positions.

50. (Currently Amended) The endoscope system of claim 49 wherein the actuator includes first
and second wires operatively connected to the distal end of the catheter ~~second image lens~~, wherein
tension on the first and second wires controls movement of the distal end of the catheter ~~second~~
~~image lens~~.

51-53. (Cancelled)

54. (Currently Amended) An endoscope, comprising:

a first lens for receiving a first image in a fixed first direction and the first image
being a generally circumferential view of the first direction that is generally forward and
parallel to the longitudinal axis of the shaft;

a shaft having a diameter and a distal end for fixedly receiving the first lens therein, the shaft defining a hollow channel therethrough and having a steering mechanism to deflect the distal end in at least four perpendicular directions;

a second lens for receiving a second image in a second direction, the second direction being at an angle generally 180 degrees to the first direction and the second image being a generally circumferential view of the second direction;

a catheter being reversibly received within the channel of the shaft and having proximal and distal ends ~~and a steering mechanism~~, the distal end being retroflexed from a first position to a second position upon extension of the distal end of the catheter from the hollow channel; and

a rear view module removably received in the hollow channel; ~~and~~ housing the second lens; and being operatively attached to the distal end of the catheter, the rear view module including a steering mechanism for moving the distal end of the catheter to rear view module in the second position direction upon exit from the hollow channel;

wherein:

the second lens receives the second image in the second direction with the distal end of the catheter being in the second position; and

the shaft is insertable into the hollow channel under the image guidance of the first image and the steering mechanism of the shaft, independent of the steering mechanism of the catheter.

55. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 54 wherein the rear view module is movable between a first position and a second position upon emerging from the hollow channel of the shaft .

56. (Currently Amended) The endoscope of claim 55 further comprising an actuator operatively connected to the distal end of the catheter for controlling movement of the distal end of the catheter rear view module.

57. (Currently Amended) The endoscope of claim 56 wherein the actuator includes first and second wires operatively connected to the distal end of the catheter , wherein tension on the first and second wires controls movement of the distal end of the catheter second image lens.

58-60. (Cancelled)

61. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 54 wherein the second lens is operatively connected to an image processor.

62. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 54 further comprising a display screen operatively connected to the first and second lenses for displaying the first and second images.

63. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 54 further comprising an eyepiece operatively connected to the first and second lenses for viewing the first and second images.

64. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 54 further comprising one or more rear illumination bulbs for illuminating an area adjacent the second lens.

65. (Previously Presented) The endoscope of claim 64 wherein the one or more rear illumination bulbs are operatively connected to a power source.

66. (Currently Amended) The endoscope of claim 54 wherein the distal end of the catheter ~~rear view module~~ is urged into the second position upon emergence from the hollow channel of the shaft by a flexible member disposed in the bending section ~~rear view module~~ .

67. (Currently Amended) The endoscope of claim 10 ~~4~~ wherein the actuator includes a bending structure disposed in the catheter and wherein the bending structure urges the distal tip of the catheter into the second position ~~direction~~ upon exit from the hollow channel of the shaft.